

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 12-19 remain pending in the present application. Claim 12 is the only independent claim and it includes limitations not disclosed by, nor made obvious in view of, the prior art.


Claim 12 now recites an apparatus for “encircling vegetation with a windscreen.” The windscreen includes an “elongated flexible sheet” with attached stakes. The attached stakes are mounted to a “supporting stake” to form a structure whereby “the flexible sheet encircles the vegetation in a substantially complete loop to form an enclosure that is substantially closed around the sides and open at the top”.

The prior art does not show such a structure. Moffit’s “awning for horses” does not show a “substantially complete loop” or an “enclosure that is substantially closed around the sides and open at the top”. In fact, Moffit’s structure is not a substantially complete loop and is closed at the top and open at two of the sides. Moffit is somewhat the opposite of the present invention and teaches away from the present invention.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-279-5098.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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